

Passed by the House on May 8, 2015: Yeas 140, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1171 on May 29, 2015: Yeas 143, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 27, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 18, 2015.

Effective June 18, 2015.

FISCAL TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

CHAPTER 923

H.B. No. 1378

AN ACT

relating to the fiscal transparency and accountability of political subdivisions.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Chapter 140, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 140.008 to read as follows:

Sec. 140.008. ANNUAL REPORT OF CERTAIN FINANCIAL INFORMATION.

(a) In this section:

(1) "Debt obligation" means an issued public security, as defined by Section 1201.002, Government Code.

(2) "Political subdivision" means a county, municipality, school district, junior college district, other special district, or other subdivision of state government.

(b) A political subdivision shall annually compile and report the following financial information in the manner prescribed by this section:

(1) as of the last day of the preceding fiscal year, debt obligation information for the political subdivision that must state:

(A) the amount of all authorized debt obligations;

(B) the principal of all outstanding debt obligations;

(C) the principal of each outstanding debt obligation;

(D) the combined principal and interest required to pay all outstanding debt obligations on time and in full;

(E) the combined principal and interest required to pay each outstanding debt obligation on time and in full;

(F) the amounts required by Paragraphs (A)–(E) limited to authorized and outstanding debt obligations secured by ad valorem taxation, expressed as a total amount and, if the political subdivision is a municipality, county, or school district, as a per capita amount; and

(G) the following for each debt obligation:

(i) the issued and unissued amount;

(ii) the spent and unspent amount;

(iii) the maturity date; and

(iv) the stated purpose for which the debt obligation was authorized;

(2) the current credit rating given by any nationally recognized credit rating organization to debt obligations of the political subdivision; and

(3) any other information that the political subdivision considers relevant or necessary to explain the values required by Subdivisions (1)(A)–(F), including:

(A) an amount required by Subdivision (1)(F) stated as a per capita amount if the political subdivision is not required to provide the amount under that paragraph;

(B) an explanation of the payment sources for the different types of debt; and

(C) a projected per capita amount of an amount required by Subdivision (1)(F), as of the last day of the maximum term of the most recent debt obligation issued by the political subdivision.

(c) Instead of replicating in the annual report information required by Subsection (b) that is posted separately on the political subdivision's Internet website, the political subdivision may provide in the report a direct link to, or a clear statement describing the location of, the separately posted information.

(d) As an alternative to providing an annual report under Subsection (f), a political subdivision may provide to the comptroller the information described by Subsection (b) and any other related information required by the comptroller in the form and in the manner prescribed by the comptroller. The comptroller shall post the information on the comptroller's Internet website. The comptroller may post the information in the format that the comptroller determines appropriate, provided that the information for each political subdivision is easily located by searching the name of the political subdivision on the Internet. If the political subdivision maintains an Internet website, the political subdivision shall provide a link from the website to the location on the comptroller's website where the political subdivision's financial information may be viewed. The comptroller shall adopt rules necessary to implement this subsection.

(e) This subsection applies only to a municipality with a population of less than 15,000 or a county with a population of less than 35,000. As an alternative to providing an annual report under Subsection (f), a municipality or county may provide to the comptroller, in the form and in the manner prescribed by the comptroller, a document that includes the information described by Subsection (b). The comptroller shall post the information from the document submitted under this subsection on the comptroller's Internet website on a web page that is easily located by searching the name of the municipality or county on the Internet. If the municipality or county maintains or causes to be maintained an Internet website, the municipality or county shall provide a link from the website to the web page on the comptroller's website where the information may be viewed. The comptroller shall adopt rules necessary to implement this subsection.

(f) Except as provided by Subsection (d) or (e), the governing body of a political subdivision shall take action to ensure that:

(1) the political subdivision's annual report is made available for inspection by any person and is posted continuously on the political subdivision's Internet website until the political subdivision posts the next annual report; and

(2) the contact information for the main office of the political subdivision is continuously posted on the website, including the physical address, the mailing address, the main telephone number, and an e-mail address.

(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a district, as defined by Section 49.001, Water Code, satisfies the requirements of this section if the district:

(1) complies with the requirements of Subchapter G, Chapter 49, Water Code, regarding audit reports, affidavits of financial dormancy, and annual financial reports; and

(2) submits the financial documents described by Subchapter G, Chapter 49, Water Code, to the comptroller.

(h) The comptroller shall post the documents submitted to the comptroller under Subsection (g) on the comptroller's Internet website. The comptroller shall adopt rules necessary to implement this subsection and Subsection (g).

SECTION 2. Section 271.047, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) Except as provided by this subsection, the governing body of an issuer may not authorize a certificate to pay a contractual obligation to be incurred if a bond proposition to

authorize the issuance of bonds for the same purpose was submitted to the voters during the preceding three years and failed to be approved. A governing body may authorize a certificate that the governing body is otherwise prohibited from authorizing under this subsection:

(1) in a case described by Sections 271.056(1)–(3); and

(2) to comply with a state or federal law, rule, or regulation if the political subdivision has been officially notified of noncompliance with the law, rule, or regulation.

SECTION 3. The requirements to compile and report information under Section 140.008, Local Government Code, as added by this Act, apply only to a fiscal year ending on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect January 1, 2016.

Passed by the House on April 23, 2015: Yeas 139, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; the House refused to concur in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1378 on May 18, 2015, and requested the appointment of a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; the House adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 1378 on May 28, 2015: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 12, 2015: Yeas 30, Nays 0; at the request of the House, the Senate appointed a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; the Senate adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 1378 on May 29, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 18, 2015.

Effective January 1, 2016.

**REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN MEDICAL COSTS FOR
VICTIMS OF CERTAIN SEX OFFENSES, COMPENSATION TO
VICTIMS OF STALKING FOR RELOCATION AND HOUSING
RENTAL EXPENSES, AND THE CREATION OF A
GOVERNOR'S PROGRAM FOR VICTIMS OF CHILD SEX
TRAFFICKING**

CHAPTER 924

H.B. No. 1446

AN ACT

relating to reimbursement of certain medical costs for victims of certain sex offenses, compensation to victims of stalking for relocation and housing rental expenses, and the creation of a governor's program for victims of child sex trafficking.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. The heading to Article 56.06, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

Art. 56.06. **FORENSIC MEDICAL EXAMINATION FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIM WHO HAS REPORTED ASSAULT; COSTS.**

SECTION 2. Article 56.06, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) and adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

(a) If a sexual assault is reported to a law enforcement agency within 96 hours of the assault, the law enforcement agency, with the consent of the victim, a person authorized to act on behalf of the victim, or an employee of the Department of Family and Protective Services, shall request a *forensic* medical examination of the victim of the alleged assault for use in the investigation or prosecution of the offense. A law enforcement agency may decline to request a *forensic* medical examination under this subsection only if the person reporting the sexual assault has made one or more false reports of sexual